

view of US Patent No. 6,327,599 to Warmus et al. Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Corona, in view of Barnes, and further in view of US Patent No. 5,987,127 to Ikenoue et al. Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Corona, in view of Warmus.

To compare the features of the present invention with the cited references, it is respectfully noted that claim 1 includes "means for intercepting data... means for utilizing a specified portion of the intercepted data as a key to access a database... and means for printing the data" in a different format. For the reasons set forth below, it is believed that the claimed invention is novel and non-obvious in light of all known prior art. The amendments made hereby to claims 1, 2, 5, 10 and 11 provide clarified language so as to more precisely claim the invention.

In contrast, the invention disclosed by the Corona patent involves providing extra sheets for the separation of sequential jobs in a printer or copier being used by multiple individuals. Corona implements print job separation by inserting an added paper sheet between first and second jobs. The inserted paper sheet is of the next larger size standard paper than the paper on which the job is printed (see column 6, lines 48 – 55) to be easily seen. In addition, the Corona disclosure optionally provides an additional printing on the separator sheets (column 7, lines 33 – 44). No description or suggestion exists in Corona for obtaining the information to be printed on the separator sheets from an auxiliary database, as claimed in claim 1. Also, Corona does not modify the document being printed, but just inserts an additional separation sheet between print jobs. Furthermore, Corona does not utilize "a specified portion of such intercepted data as a

key to access" the database (emphasis added). It is thus respectfully submitted that Corona teaches nothing more than an invention for separating print jobs, albeit optionally adding identifying indicia on separator sheets, and therefore does not anticipate or render obvious the present invention.

The Office Action correctly notes the reference by Barnes to a print manager and a print queue. However, the reference to Warmus for providing "access (to a) database for obtaining other information" is believed to be misplaced. Warmus does describe a database (108) (see column 5, lines 5 – 15), but no discussion pertains to accessing such a database by use of "a specified portion of such intercepted data" from the document for printing. As such, the limitations of claim 1, taken as a conglomerate, define what is believed to be a novel and non-obvious invention.

Therefore, claim 1, inclusive of "means for utilizing a specified portion of such intercepted data as a key to access a database" is submitted as being clearly allowable. In addition, claims 2 – 4, dependent upon claim 1 are also believed to be patentable. Independent apparatus claims 5 and 11 and independent method claim 15 include virtually identical limitations and are also similarly allowable. Their dependent claims 6 – 10, 12 – 14 and 16 – 18 are therefore also allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending are allowable. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant intends to provide formal drawings upon receipt of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,




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MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES TO CLAIMS 1, 2, 5, 10 and 11:

1. (Thrice Amended) A document formatting tool comprising:

means for intercepting data which is being sent to a printer from a print spool;

means for utilizing a specified portion of such intercepted data as a key to access a database [to determine] **for obtaining** other information relevant to such data; and

means for printing such data in a format different from that in which it was received from said print spool, such difference being based upon said other information received from the database.

2. (Thrice Amended) The tool according to claim 1 wherein said difference includes **instructions for** generating multiple copies of [a] **said** document even when only one copy of said data was received from the print spool.

5. (Twice Amended) A document formatting tool comprising:

means for intercepting data in an original format which is being sent to a printer from a print spool;

means for utilizing a specified portion of such intercepted data as a key to a database [to determine] **for determining** other information relevant to such data;

means for generating a document comprising said data in a new format different from said original format based upon said other information determined

from the database.

10. (Twice Amended) A document generating tool comprising:

means for intercepting original data which is being sent to a printer from a print spool;

means for utilizing a specified portion of such intercepted data as a key to a database [to determine] **for determining** additional information relevant to such data; and

means for generating multiple documents each comprising said original data as well as additional data from said additional information, wherein said additional data is different in each of said multiple documents.

11. (Twice Amended) A document generating tool comprising:

means for intercepting original data which is being sent to a printer from a print spool, said original data comprising a first portion and a second portion;

means for utilizing a specified one of said portions of such intercepted data as a key to a database [to determine] **for obtaining** other information relevant to such data; and

means for generating at least two documents based on said determined other information, one comprising both portions of said original data, while the other only comprising said first portion of said original data.